Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Does not the Government think that it is desirable to have an agency to collect statistics?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—It is answered and they have already announced it as a chief proposal in connection with the Huzur reorganisation.

Article in the Gomathi of 17th Edavam 1110—

"വനത്തിലെ അഴിമതികൾ."

260. Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the article in the Gomathi dated 17th Edavam 1110 M. E. under the caption "വനത്തിലെ അഴിമതികൾ";

(2) if it is true that the Conservator of Forests came across a number of carts carrying valuable logs stolen from Government forests;

(3) whether he got the logs unloaded near Anchuvillaku in Trichur and entrusted them to the care of Mannoothi Forester asking him to prosecute the cartmen; and

(4) whether the next morning some of the logs were found converted into fuel and the cartmen with their carts were missing?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—(1) Yes.
(2), (3) and (4) Government regret they cannot disclose the facts at present.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know why Government cannot disclose these facts?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.— In the light of the answer I am afraid I can't give further answers.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen.— Are the facts stated in the article true?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I can't answer that.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Since the Government do not deny these facts are we to take it as true?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—It is left to the Member to draw his own conclusion. I cannot disclose details.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is it true that the Conservator came across a number of carts carrying valuable logs

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stolen from the Government forest? We don't want details. What is the objection in answering that at least?

Mr. President.— When the Government say that they cannot disclose those facts you cannot ask further questions.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to disclose facts after some time?

Mr. President.—That is hypothetical.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May we know the grounds on which these are not disclosed?

Mr. President.—When Government say that certain facts are not to be disclosed the House cannot insist for those facts.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Have the Government any idea to keep back the facts stated here?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, Government used to tell us when they refuse to disclose facts on what grounds they do so either on public interest or for other reasons. At least they give reasons why they keep it as confidential. Your ruling deprives us even the knowing of these grounds.

Mr. President.—I understand from the Hon'ble Member's answers that it is in public interest that he is not disclosing the facts. Is it not so?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Yes. Sir, it is in the interest of the public.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was any inquiry conducted on the information supplied

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I do not think I will be able to answer that also.

Mr. President.—Are the Government making any enquiries into it?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.— Yes, Sir, action is being taken.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—If that is the answer given we would not have asked any further questions.

Revenue collection--coercive steps.

261. Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—With reference to Revenue collection this year will the Government be pleased to state.—

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